

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM BOOG LEISHMAN

THE untimely death of Lieut.-General Sir William Leishman on June 2, 1926, deserves more than passing notice. He was born in 1865 in Glasgow, son of the distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Midwifery at Glasgow University. He entered the army the year following his graduation and until 1890 served on home stations. He was then sent to India where he probably acquired his interest in tropical diseases, in the study of which he became so distinguished. In 1899 he was made Assistant Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School at Netley under Sir Almroth Wright, and succeeded him in 1903, when the school was transferred to London. He assisted Wright in the early work on antityphoid vaccine, and is credited with having made brilliant advances in the perfection of this product. He invented the method of testing the phagocytic power *in vitro* and developed the well-known stain for leucocytes. While he was not the first to recognize the protozoa which carry his name, he was the first to suspect the true significance of his observation, and Sir Ronald Ross suggested that this group of organisms should bear his name, which gives us the term Leishmaniasis, applied to the group of diseases associated with the presence of this genus of protozoa. He made difficult, if not entirely successful, experiments on the developmental cycle of the spirochaete of relapsing fever. Many other researches less known were carried out by him.

He was a member of innumerable societies and committees for the government as well as for scientific societies. At the outbreak of the World War he was assigned as Expert in Tropical Diseases on the Army Medical Advisory Board, and soon after the duties of Adviser in Pathology were added. At the time of his death he was Director-General of the Army Medical Service. He was a prolific writer on tropical diseases and preventive medicine, contributing to well-known journals.

It is somewhat curious that his death was practically coincident with that of Sir Stewart Stockman, the chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, and both have occurred coincidently with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the British Islands, which is causing such great losses and so much concern in that country. While noted for other lines of work, Sir Stewart Stockman's name is particularly connected with the study and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease. At the time of his death he was a member of the recently appointed Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Committee, of which Sir William Leishman was the Chairman. Serious as the deaths of these two men have been to the science of preventive medicine, they come as a crushing blow at this time, when their services are so seriously needed. While England is particularly hard hit, the scientific world in general recognizes the great loss which it has sustained.